

as one within forty miles of its western locks. But when details are considered the Nicaragua route has proceeded no further than surveys and concessions, important enough, to be sure, but inconsiderable weight when compared with what has been accomplished on the Panama canal. General Abbot, a member of the corps of engineers, U. S. A., which was appointed last spring to make a careful examination of the entire route of the Panama canal, after he had previously traversed the Nicaragua route, says comparing the two: "In Nicaragua the general conditions are distinctly inferior. Two ports must be artificially prepared; one, at least, of great practical difficulty since nature has already closed the old harbor. About 120 miles of railroad must be built, mostly traversing a wilderness. Almost nothing has been done in the way of construction or of preparation for the work. Of the whole length of 176 miles, sixty-eight miles follow the bed of a crooked river where the prevailing trade winds and the currents resulting from the whole outflow of Lake Nicaragua will unite to aggregate the difficulty of shipping in transit. The length of the route is about four times that of the Panama canal, adding proportionately to the time of passage; finally, at least one dam is demanded, quite without precedent in our canal construction, besides several miles of huge embankments in the San Francisco basin, where the foundations are extremely bad and where a rupture at any future time would entail veritable disasters."

The opposition to a trans-Isthmian canal is said to have been created entirely by the railroads. Overland carriage is so much more expensive than water shipment that the transcontinental railroads have feared that a canal which would place the Pacific and Atlantic ports within less than thirty days of each other, (where they are now separated by 135 day), would mean a serious loss of freight to the railroads. It is urged on the other hand that stimulation of the Pacific coast would increase immigration which would increase production, which, in turn would quickly affect production in the middle states. Capt. A. S. Crownshield in the current number of *The Century* says on this subject, "that for years past nine-tenths of the business of the transcontinental railways has been local and not overland, showing that for years to come they must depend almost entirely for business upon that part of their roads situated within the borders of the coast states."

The Panama railroad which parallels the canal from ocean to ocean has been of great assistance in constructing it.

Two canals on this isthmus, on account of the enormous expense of construction are scarcely feasible. The French company which now owns the stock is seeking to induce our government to contribute to the Panama, instead of to the Nicaragua canal. From an economical point of view as opposed to a purely national one, a duplication of the work already accomplished at such a cost of men and money is very foolish. Moreover the nearness of the Nicaragua site to an earthquake centre would, in all probability destroy the locks and machinery of a canal. The effort which the French company is making to interest Americans in the work is an indication that as satisfactory a treaty can be made with them and the States of Columbia as with the government of Nicaragua.

Regarding the money value of the stock of a canal the Suez was bought by Disraeli for \$19,000,000 and it is now

worth \$123,000,000, and the Panama will save in distance 3,000 miles more than the Suez.

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The reputation of Colonel Stotzenburg as a conscientious and able officer is not of recent manufacture. His military and personal record is of the highest and the charges of tyrannical and inconsiderate treatment of his men are lacking in consistency. Military discipline and the peculiar system of caste which is a part of it, must be trying to an American soldier, brought up on the Declaration of Independence and his equal chances of being made president. A year of army life will probably do him good but the effect on his American sub-consciousness, at the time, is galling, and reflections upon the man who is the local apex of the system, are natural. Knowing the fine quality of Col. Stotzenburg's character and training it will require evidence of the most impartial and positive nature, to convince either the department at Washington or those who know him in Lincoln that he is guilty of unsoldierly conduct. Happily the department at Washington is not in the habit of acting upon hysterical letters from idolatrous relatives, and in consequence Col. Stotzenburg's head is quite as firmly fixed on his shoulders as ever.

To the Republicans of the Nebraska Legislature:

Gentlemen: A vigorous fight is on for the election of United States senator. Upon your selection depends very largely the welfare of the republican party in this state, and this consideration of all others ought to determine your selection. If the proper man is selected the future success of the republican party in this state is almost an assured fact.

There is a large number of splendid men standing for the office of senator; of this array of gentlemen there seems to be but one candidate against whom there is a bitter and determined opposition; and that man is Mr. Thompson.

At least half of the public press of this state is openly opposed to his election and almost entirely for party reasons.

Mr. Thompson has made the most vigorous campaign of any candidate for this office; he has been at work longer, had a larger force in his employment and has been making a campaign for the purpose of moulding public sentiment in his favor. He realized at the outset that public sentiment was against him and that before he could get anyone to vote for him he would have to convince them that there was a demand for his election, and with this end in view his hired men are traveling from one end of the state to the other, soliciting and importuning citizens not members of the legislature, to lend him their support. He has had his men call upon almost every business man and institution in the city of Lincoln, and has personally solicited and importuned his support, and has induced business men to write letters to the members of the legislature urging them to vote for him, and in every way he has tried to muzzle some people and at the same time tried to get others to talk in his interest with a view to moulding public sentiment in his favor.

Have any of you stopped to inquire why it was that public sentiment to start with was all against Mr. Thompson, and that it had to be moulded and worked and shaped in his favor? What has he been doing that public sentiment should all be against him? What has been his course politically,

and as a business man?

Many of the business men of this city have written letters to members of the legislature for Thompson, urging his election "because he has been a successful business man and pays one hundred cents on the dollar." Bah. What nonsense.

Mr. Thompson is far from being a successful business man. A man who adopts such business methods and is connected with such questionable transactions in money getting as to forfeit the respect, confidence and esteem of his fellow men and neighbors, cannot be said to be a successful business man.

What is Mr. Thompson's business career that it should be so highly lauded. A year and a half before the failure of the Capital National bank he owned \$25,000 stock and was a director in that bank, and the insurance company of which he is the president held \$25,000 stock in the Capital National bank. At the time of the failure of the bank neither Mr. Thompson nor his insurance company owned any stock. About a year and a half before the bank failed he disposed of \$20,000 of his stock to Mosher and Outcalt, \$3,000 to Esther C. Barton, a Philadelphia lady whose acquaintance he made when traveling in Egypt, at \$1.33, and she now has a suit pending in the United States circuit court charging him with false and fraudulent representations made for the purpose of inducing her to buy the stock; and that she purchased the stock and paid for it, relying solely and entirely upon what Mr. Thompson told her about the bank, its condition, and its cashier. In the negotiations Mr. Thompson told her that "the management of the bank was first class; that the cashier was as honest as men ever grow to be, and that the bank stood at the head of the list, and that she could look upon her holdings of stock in this bank much the same as she could upon government bonds if she owned them."

Wonder why Mosher and Outcalt bought \$20,000 of Thompson's stock in the Capital National bank and gave their note in payment of the same secured by first-class collateral? Mr. Mosher must have known that the bank was in a failing condition and that the stock was worthless and was a liability instead of an asset even if Mr. Thompson did not.

The manner in which Mr. Thompson slid out of this institution unscathed, having realized \$1.33 for every dollar's worth of stock that he held in the bank something like a year and a half before it failed, we suppose, is a good illustration of Mr. Thompson's business ability, as spoken of in letters written by the business men of this city.

If this bank was not good enough for Mr. Thompson to hold stock in it, then why did he not use the same effort to protect its depositors as he did to protect himself and his insurance company?

Mr. Thompson saw that it was time for him to get from under, and he and his insurance company got out of it, and Mr. Thompson turns up with deeds upon hundreds of acres of Mr. Mosher's York county lands, Mr. Outcalt's valuable stock farm, Mosher's gas stock, and even a chattle mortgage on the household goods belonging to C. W. Mosher, while hundreds of depositors were ruined and almost every stockholder in this bank except Mr. Thompson has lost heavily, anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Hundreds of people have been ruined when, if Mr. Thompson had been as much interested in the public as he now appears to be, he could have protected them as well as he protected himself.

The members of this legislature

should remember that the state of Nebraska lost \$239,000 in this bank, and it will not do to elect a man to the United States senate who was a heavy stockholder in this institution. Some may think he did not have anything to do with this loss, but hundreds of people in this state think that he was a party to the transaction, and that is just as damaging to the party as though he were the chief cause of it.

A suit is now pending in the United States circuit court at Omaha where Mr. Thompson is sued for a stock assessment for over \$25,000. If he is made United States senator his influence may be sufficient to have the suit dropped and this means a loss of \$25,000 to the depositors of the Capital National bank.

Suits are now pending in various courts against Mr. Thompson for over \$100,000 on transactions growing out of the management and the failure of the Capital National bank.

The question for the legislature to answer by their votes is "Shall we send to the United States senate a director of the Capital National bank?"

Mr. D. E. Thompson was a director in that bank through its career. As a director and stockholder he withdrew in the form of dividends \$18,000 or \$20,000, when not a dollar was ever earned. While he was a director the bank lost or was robbed of over three quarters of a million dollars. The speculations and losses in the bank may not have been with the knowledge of Mr. Thompson; yet he should have had full knowledge if he had exercised his "fine business ability" which is so lauded by his admirers.

The state had on deposit in the bank \$236,000. This money was lost; to say the least in part by Mr. Thompson's negligence.

Shall we send to the senate a business man through whose conduct the state and the taxpayers lost \$236,000? Has not the republican party enough to answer for without shouldering this burden?

The Bartley scandal and the Eugene Moore embezzlement all but ruined the party. Is the republican party, just as it is emerging from these difficulties, going to load itself up with a new scandal?

We repudiated the Bartley and Moore speculations and we denounced the offenders in our platform and on the stump. Shall we now condone the conduct of a man who is responsible in part for the loss to the state of \$236,000 and reward him with a seat in the United States senate?

What a fine campaign will the republicans make next fall as the apologist and defender of a senator whose bank took from the taxpayers \$236,000 of their money?

Is it not the madness of folly for the republican party to court certain defeat by sending Mr. Thompson to the senate?

We regret to learn that at a secret caucus held by the Lancaster delegation they have decided to support Mr. Thompson. Are these men bereft of reason and political sense? Have they forgotten that there are 2,000 depositors of the Capital National bank who are watching their action? Have they forgotten the blight that has settled on Lincoln since the failure of the bank five years ago? There is scarcely a household in the city but was touched by the bankruptcy of the Capital National bank. It brought more loss, ruin, and misery in its train than all the other failures in Lincoln combined. Still the Lancaster delegation is for Mr. Thompson.

God save the republican party.

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"Seems to me," observed the high-jumper, looking about his stall, "that the quarters here are rather contracted."

"True," said the Shetland Pony; "but," he added, with a nod toward the boxes, "the dollars seem to be unlimited."—Harper's Bazar.